



# Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Pittsburgh District

In Reply Refer to  
Notice No. below

US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. 2007-1479

Date: 14 November 2008

Notice No. 08-56

Closing Date: 15 December 2008

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/  
SECTION 404 PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE  
SOUTHERN BELTWAY TRANSPORTATION PROJECT,  
I-79 TO MON/FAYETTE EXPRESSWAY  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

1. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is given that the United States Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended, have prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Section 404 Permit Application for the Southern Beltway Transportation Project from I-79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway in Washington County, Pennsylvania. This notice is made pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The attached Figure 1 map illustrates the applicants' project area and preferred alternative.

2. APPLICANT

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission  
700 South Eisenhower Boulevard  
P.O. Box 67676  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7676

3. LOCATION:

The project area of the Southern Beltway I-79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway project is located approximately 24 km (15 miles) southwest of the City of Pittsburgh and 16 km (10 miles) northeast of the City of Washington, PA. The project area encompasses portions of Cecil, North Strabane, Nottingham, Peters and Union townships and the boroughs of Canonsburg and Finleyville in Washington County.

The project begins at Interstate 79 in northern Cecil Township, Washington County and extends approximately 17 miles to the Mon/Fayette Expressway (PA Turnpike 43) in Union Township, Washington County. Six build alternatives have been studied in detail within the project area.

Surface waters in the Southern Beltway I-79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway (PA Turnpike 43) project area lie in either the Ohio River or Monongahela River Drainage Basin. Streams located within the project area have been grouped into seven major watersheds. These watersheds are: Chartiers Creek, McPherson Creek, Little Chartiers Creek, Peters Creek, Mingo Creek, Froman Run and Huston Run. Chartiers Creek is a direct tributary of the Ohio River, and Little Chartiers Creek and McPherson Creek are tributaries of Chartiers Creek. Peters Creek, Mingo Creek, and Huston Run are direct tributaries to the Monongahela River. Froman Run is a tributary to Mingo Creek. Each of these main streams has numerous perennial and intermittent unnamed tributaries located within the project study area. Project area streams are shown on the Plates contained within the FEIS

The project area and the alternatives studied in detail are shown on Figures P.O.-1, 3.9 and the Plates provided in Volume II of the FEIS.

4. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The purpose of the Southern Beltway Transportation Project from I-79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway is to provide transportation mobility and safety improvements to meet the needs identified within the project area and to be compatible with local, regional, and national planning efforts. The project will improve east/west access and mobility in the circumferential corridor south of the City of Pittsburgh between the Monongahela Valley and the Pittsburgh International Airport. Similar to the other Southern Beltway projects, the I-79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway project would involve the construction of a new four-lane, limited access, tolled highway facility.

The 17 mile new highway project is one of three independent Southern Beltway projects that comprise a 32-mile roadway system. The FEIS describes the full range of alternatives which have been considered for this project and summarizes the environmental impacts (natural, socioeconomic, and cultural) associated with each of the alternatives studied in detail.

Bridges, box culverts and pipe culverts would be used to cross project area surface water resources. Several stream relocations would also be required. Wetland encroachments would consist of both cut and fill placement. Several wetlands (those primarily associated with a watercourse) would be spanned by bridge structures. Potential stream and wetland impacts for each of the alternatives are presented in Sections 4.2.3 and 4.2.5 (Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences) of the FEIS.

Following final design, unavoidable stream and wetland impacts would be mitigated through habitat and water quality improvement projects, and replacement, respectively. Potential wetland mitigation sites are described in Chapter 4 and shown on Figure 4-18 of the FEIS.

The I-79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway (PA Turnpike 43) portion of the Southern Beltway Transportation Project was divided into Section 1 and Section 2 (west and east) alternatives for study and evaluation purposes due to their common location near the center of the project area.

#### SECTION 1 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Construction of the preferred Green Alternative Option 1A would result in a direct impact to 31

wetlands totaling 1.3 hectares (3.1 acres) of palustrine wetland habitat. The Green Alternative Option 1A would cross 21 perennial streams and seven (7) intermittent streams. Stream crossings by fill placement and culverts would impact 1,526 m (5,005 ft) of perennial stream and 392 m (1,286 ft) of intermittent stream habitat. An additional 511 m (1,675 ft) of perennial stream habitat would be relocated.

## SECTION 2 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Construction of the preferred Tan-Red Alternative would result in a direct impact to 44 wetlands 0.6 hectare (1.6 acres) of palustrine wetland habitat. The Tan-Red Alternative would cross 31 perennial streams and two (2) intermittent streams. Stream crossing by fill placement and culverts would impact approximately 1,740 m (5,710 ft) of perennial stream and 269 m (883 ft) of intermittent stream habitat. An additional 1,131 m (3,709 ft) of perennial stream would be relocated.

5. ENCROACHMENT PERMITS: The applicant is required to obtain an encroachment permit which includes State 401 Water Quality Certification, if required, from the:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Southwest Regional Office  
Soils and Waterways Section  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745  
Telephone: 412-442-4000

6. IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to affect the continued existence of any endangered species, or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which have been determined to be critical. There are no known facts which indicate the proposed work would have a significant adverse effect on the environment, or would destroy or endanger any known critical habitat of a threatened or endangered species as identified under the Endangered Species Act; therefore, formal consultation procedures with the Fish and Wildlife Service will not be initiated, unless warranted by later developments. This Public Notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species that may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

7. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16U.S.C. §470f) considers the effects of federal projects on cultural resources (historic and archeological resources). Cultural resources potentially impacted by the proposed project were identified and evaluated in compliance with Section 106 and its implementing regulations, Executive Order 11593, the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Acts, and the Pennsylvania History Code. Section 106 requires coordinating with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), which serves as the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) in identifying historic and

archaeological resources, assessing the effects of the project, and developing mitigation measures. Due to the revised Section 106 guidelines (revised June 1999, coordination with the SHPO is ongoing. To date, the SHPO has concurred with the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility findings for all of the evaluated historic resources.

Within the project area, twenty-one individual resources were determined to be eligible for the NRHP (one resource common to both sections) and 166 identified resources were determined to be non-eligible for the NRHP. In addition to the Historic Structures Survey, agency coordination and public involvement was conducted to identify any additional resources and to consider comments on the identified resources. An examination of the No-Build Alternative resulted in a finding of no historic property affected. The Section 1 preferred Green Alternative Option 1A would have No Effect on five resources and No Adverse Effect on one resource, the Manes Farm. The Section 2 preferred Tan-Red Alternative would have No Effect on six resources; No Adverse Effect on one resource, the Calderone Property and would not have an Adverse Effect on any resources.

A methodology for evaluating archaeological resources within the project area was developed by consulting with the SHPO. The methodology utilizes intensive background research and modeling (Phase IA Archaeological Survey) to determine areas of historic and prehistoric archaeological potential. It was determined by the SHPO that no archaeological field investigations would be necessary before the selection of a preferred alternative. The information provided by the Phase IA Archaeological Survey would be used by the SHPO in their assessment of the potential impact to archaeological resources for each alternative. After the ROD has been issued, the Section 106 process and any needed additional archaeological investigations will be completed for the selected alternative. The Section 1 preferred Green Alternative Option 1A would impact 80 acres of High Probability Archaeological Zones. The Section 2 preferred Tan-Red Alternative would impact 28 acres of High Probability Archaeological Zones.

If we are made aware, as a result of comments received in the response to this notice, or by any other means, of specific archaeological, scientific, prehistoric or historical sites or structures which might be affected by the proposed work, the District Engineer will immediately take the proposed action necessary pursuant to the National Register Preservation Act of 1966 Public law 89-655 as amended (including Public Law 96-515).

8. **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2007. The DEIS was available for comment until February 8, 2008. A total of 48 comments were submitted to the Corps and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. The Corps and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission considered public concerns on the DEIS. The written comment letters and responses were incorporated into the FEIS as appropriate. A formal public hearing to receive comments on the DEIS was held by the Corps and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission on January 24, 2008 at the Canon-McMillan Senior High School in Canonsburg, PA. Both an open house plans display and a formal presentation was conducted, and a total of 10 individuals provided testimony regarding the project. The Corps and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission considered and incorporated public concerns, as appropriate, into the FEIS. This notice is provided to afford the opportunity for public comment on the preferred alternative and

the requested Department of Army Permit action

9. ACCESSIBILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The FEIS will be available for review until December 15, 2008 during regular business hours at the locations listed on the attachment to this Public Notice. It is also available for review during regular business hours at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Public Affairs Office, Room 2201 Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Please call Jeff Hawk at 412-395-7501 to coordinate a visit. Enclosed is a list of all the public locations where the FEIS will be available during regular business hours

The FFIS/Section 404 Permit Application is available for review on the PA Turnpike Commission's Project Website at [www.paturnpike.com/MonFaySB/](http://www.paturnpike.com/MonFaySB/)

If a member of the public would like a copy of the FEIS, a compact disc (CD) will be furnished upon request by calling SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. at 412-392-8750.

10. EVALUATION: Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposals must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments will be incorporated into the Record of Decision and any Department of the Army Permit on this action. Comments are used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activities. The evaluation of the impact of the activities on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//signed//  
Scott A. Hans  
Chief, Regulatory Branch



# SOUTHERN BELTWAY TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

I-79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway

Washington County

Release of the

Final Environmental Impact Statement/Section 404 Permit Application



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

All interested persons are advised that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended, have prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Section 404 Permit Application for the Southern Beltway Transportation Project from I-79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway.

The FEIS/Section 404 Permit Application is available for review on the PA Turnpike Commission's Project Website at [www.paturnpike.com/MonFaySB/](http://www.paturnpike.com/MonFaySB/)

The FEIS/Section 404 Permit Application is available for review from November 14, 2008 to December 15, 2008 during regular business hours at the following locations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs Office William S. Moorhead Federal Building 1000 Liberty Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Administration Building 700 South Eisenhower Boulevard Middletown, PA 17057	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Western Regional Office 2200 North Center Avenue New Stanton, PA 15672-9602	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 12-0 825 North Gallatin Avenue Ext. Uniontown, PA 15401
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation - District 11-0 45 Thoms Run Road Bridgeville, PA 15017	Allegheny County Dept. of Economic Development 425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 800 Reg. Business Enterprise Tower Pittsburgh, PA 15219	Washington County Planning Commission Courthouse Square 100 West Beau Street, Suite 701 Washington, PA 15301	Canonsburg Borough 68 East Pike Street Canonsburg, PA 15317
Cecil Township 3599 Millers Run Road, Suite 101 Cecil, PA 15321	Finleyville Borough 3515 Washington Avenue Finleyville, PA 15332	North Strabane Township 1929 Route 519 Canonsburg, PA 15317	Nottingham Township 909 Sugar Run Road Eighty Four, PA 15330
Peters Township 610 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317	South Fayette Township 515 Millers Run Road Morgan, PA 15064	Union Township 3904 Finley-Elrama Road Finleyville, PA 15332	Andrew Carnegie Free Library 300 Beechwood Avenue Carnegie, PA 15106
Bridgeville Public Library 441 Station Street Bridgeville, PA 15013	Carnegie Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped 4724 Baum Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15213	Chartiers-Houston Public Library 730 West Grant Street Houston, PA 15342	Citizens Library 55 South College Street #2 Washington, PA 15301
Greater Canonsburg Public Library 68 East Pike Street Canonsburg, PA 15317	Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317	South Fayette Public Library 515 Millers Run Road Morgan, PA 15064	Please note that no comments will be accepted by e-mail.

**Comments concerning the FEIS/Section 404 Permit Application for this project may be submitted in writing on or before 4:00 P.M. Monday, December 15, 2008 to either of the following persons:**

Mr. David P. Willis, Environmental Manager  
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission  
P. O. Box 67676  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7676

Mr. Scott A. Hans, Chief Regulatory Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Pittsburgh District  
William S. Moorhead Federal Building  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

